

My thoughts on Synod:

They will soar like Eagles is our theme and from the opening address from Bishop Michael Curry, you could feel the spirit move, it was palpable. To soar you have to climb up and that is what happening around the country when you hear the stories, they are filled with fresh ideas and new ways of thinking. The Sacred Circle is finding their way and are inviting us to travel together as a family of God. Through out this Synod I have heard the whisper of the word hope over and over like it's coming with each flap of the wing as we soar! We are ready to go out to meet people where they are, taking God's hand for the journey.

Candace Mahaffey

One of the most meaningful and memorable aspects of this week at the 2025 National Synod in London, Ontario, was the opportunity to share in the richness of diverse perspectives from across the Anglican Church of Canada. There was a deep sense of humility and gratitude in being able to listen, learn, and grow alongside others, with each voice contributing to the larger tapestry of our shared faith and mission.

The conversations we engaged in, often rooted in complex and deeply important matters, were marked by grace and mutual respect. What made it all the more powerful was the manner in which these discussions were held in the context of prayer and discernment, culminating in thoughtful and spirit-led discussion and worship, prior to the voting process.

Being a part of this sacred work and bringing matters to a close not just administratively, but prayerfully, was both humbling and transformative for me.

Pax,

Jamieson McIlvenna

“They will soar on wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31)

The General Synod is far more than an institutional assembly; it is a sacred juncture in the life of the Church—a sacred space where the Body of Christ listens and discerns its vocation amid the evolving contexts of culture, mission, and ecclesial life. In this shared time of prayer, Eucharist, deliberation, and sacred dialogue, the Church's purpose extends beyond governance to attentiveness to the movement of the Spirit.

As someone coming from another part of the Anglican Communion, I was deeply moved by both the distinctiveness of each community and the profound harmony of our common Anglican identity, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and reason, and expressed through the synodical life that characterizes Anglican polity. This dynamic balance between episcopal leadership and synodical discernment embodies the Church's commitment to journey together, even when our paths diverge.

Among the many memorable moments—the plenary sessions, the election of the Primate, the table conversations—what moved me most profoundly was the theme drawn from Isaiah 40: “They will soar on wings like eagles.” These words were originally spoken to a people in exile, disoriented, weary, and questioning whether God still saw or cared for them (Isaiah 40:27). Isaiah does not respond with mere consolation but with a bold theological proclamation: the Lord is eternal, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who neither grows faint nor weary. Beyond affirming God's transcendence, the prophet reveals divine nearness—God gives strength to the weary and power to the powerless.

To “soar on wings like eagles” is not an invitation to escape life's challenges but a vision of renewal—a rising above despair, sustained not by human strength, but by the Spirit's empowering grace. When the Church waits on the Lord, entrusting itself to God's promises, it is renewed for mission, gifted with fresh vision, steadfast hope, and the ability to move forward with grace and courage.

In choosing this theme, the Anglican Church of Canada offers a profound theological and pastoral message: amid institutional pressures, cultural shifts, and spiritual longing, the Church is not abandoned. Rather, it is called to trust, to hope, and to be renewed—to rise once more in the power of the Spirit, like eagles carried on the winds of God's promise.

In Christ's service.

Leon+ OSMSJ

Rev. Fr. Leon Cadsap

General Synod was a time to make and renew relationships, often with people who came from different backgrounds and had different viewpoints.

It was a chance to learn what is important to other areas of the church, and place ourselves in their shoes.

It was a time to share and try to understand, and earnestly debate a wide range of resolutions, always wondering, “what is healthiest for the church?”

It was a time to celebrate the appointment of a new Primate, Shane Parker, and give thanks for the old Primates: Primate Linda Nicholls and Acting Primate Anne Germond.

It was a time to join together in worship, praise, and thanksgiving.

For me, General Synod reinforced that we are part of a larger whole, unique yet in communion, interdependent with each other and totally dependent on Christ our Lord.

I am very proud of our delegates, who listened, prayed, and spoke for us. God is so good, to bless us with such people.

+ David Greenwood, Bishop of Athabasca

General Synod Experience

My first experience at General Synod exceeded expectations. Archbishop Anne Germond set the tone by inviting mutual respect and spirit-led engagement. Her leadership fostered a space where every voice could be heard.

The core work of General Synod centers on legislation and canonical processes.

Key takeaways:

- Legislation shapes how we live out our faith collectively. Reminding me that “church is episcopally led and synodically governed.
- Some resolutions carried an invitation to action beyond the General Synod.
- The election of the 15th Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada – Bishop Shane Parker (Diocese of Ottawa).

Synodality: Teaching by Rev. Canon Scott Sharman

Rev. Canon Scott Sharman’s exploration of synodality provided a framework for how the church can walk together in mission. Three interrelated elements stood out:

- Provisional
Encountering and encouraging inclusivity in every gathering.
- Dialogical
Listening deeply, learning from one another, and honoring each person’s story through open conversation.
- Collegial
Journeying together, weaving each unique gift into a unified tapestry of ministry.

The concept of synodality drew inspiration from Luke 24:13–35, where two disciples recognize Christ “on the way.” This story reminds us to pause, pay attention, and acknowledge God’s presence in our shared pilgrimage. Beyond Luke, numerous passages call us to embodied community, listening, and mutual accompaniment.

Participating in General Synod has reshaped my understanding of church governance and communal discernment.

Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Blessing Shambare